

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9255
INFO USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 06471

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORS, PINT, IR
SUBJ: POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

REF: TEHRAN 5046

SUMMARY: TWO STUDENTS FINED, 40 RELEASED ON BAIL. ONE STUDENT TRIAL POSTPONED. OPPOSITION LEADER HAILS IMPROVED POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE, BUT QUESTIONS ITS DEPTH. PAHLAVI UNIVERSITY FACULTY URGES PRIME MINISTER TO KEEP ARYAMEHR UNIVERSITY OPEN. EMPRESS SURPRISE VISITOR AT SOUTH TEHRAN WEDDING. END SUMMARY.

1. PRESS JULY 5 AND 6 REPORTS COURTS FINED TWO ARYAMEHR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS 30,000 RIALS EACH (ABOUT \$425) ON CHARGES OF DISTURBING PUBLIC ORDER WHILE DEMONSTRATING ON STREETS. COURT FREED ON BAIL 40 STUDENTS ACCUSED OF UNRULY DEMONSTRATIONS IN TEHRAN, LEGAL AUTHORITIES SAID GROUP HAD BEEN RELEASED PENDING TRIAL.

2. GOI ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT TRIAL OF 18 STUDENTS OF NARMAK COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WHICH WAS TO HAVE BEGUN
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JULY 5 HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL LATE SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER. COLLEGE OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF IN CONFIDENCE THAT POLICE HAD MADE HASH OF INVESTIGATION, AND THAT THILE STUDENTS WERE UNDOUBTEDLY GUILTY OF SEVERAL COUNTS OF MALICIOUS DAMAGE (ABOUT HALF A MILLION DOLLARS), CASE PRESENTED TO COURT MIGHT NOT BE VERY SOLID. POSTPONEMENT UNTIL SEPTEMBER WAS PROSECUTOR'S SUGGESTION FOR KEEPING GROUP ON GOOD

BEHAVIOR THRU SUMMER AND START OF SCHOOL YEAR.

3. UNION OF NATIONAL FRONT GROUPS SENIOR FIGURE DR. KARIM SANJABI TOLD LOCAL REUTERS MAN: "THE NEW POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE IS VERY VERY ENCOURAGING AND GIVES US HOPE, BUT WE FEEL THIS MOVEMENT IS NOT AS DEEP AS THEY SAY IT IS. WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE WHAT DEVELOPS." (COMMENT: DISPIE DISCLAIMERS, STATEMENT (IF REPORTED CORRECTLY BY FARSI PRESS) IS MORE POSITIVE THAN ANY PREVIOUS PUBLIC OPPOSITION COMMENT OVER PAST FEW MONTHS.)

4. LETTER FROM PAHLAVI UNIVERSITY FACULTY TO PRIME MINISTER HAS SUPPORTED ARYAMEHR UNIVERSITY'S FACULTY CAMPAIGN TO KEEP TEHRAN CAMPUS OF UNIVERSITY OPEN (SEE REFTEL). LETTER, WHICH MENTIONED IN FARSI PRESS JULY 6, POINTED OUT IRAN WILL NEED 50,000 ENGINEERS OVER COMING YEARS AND SCHOOL IS PRODUCING NEARLY 7,000 PER YEAR. THIS IS FIRST PUBLIC OUTSIDE SUPPORT ARYAMEHR FACULTY HAS PICKED UP IN ITS CAMPAIGN TO KEEP TEHRAN BRANCH OPEN.

5. ROYAL POLITICS: ALL JULY 5 PAPERS CARRIED REPORT OF EMPRESS FARAH'S "SURPRISE" VISIT TO WEDDING OF A YOUNG TEACHER AND HS BRIDE IN POORER DISTRICT OF SOUTH TEHRAN. EMPRESS HAD HEARD OF THE WEDDING FEW WEEKS EARLIER ON UNANNOUNCED TOUR OF SCHOOLS AND WELFARE CENTERS WHEN GROOM MENTIONED PROBLEM OF FINANCING HIS CONFIDENTIAL

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WEDDING. EMPRESS THEN REPORTEDLY TOLD EDUCATION MINISTER GANJI TO ARRANGE MARRIAGE AND SAID SHE WOULD FOOT THE BILL. EMPRESS CAME ALONE WITHOUT FORMAL COURT PROCEDURES AND GAVE USUAL WEDDING GIFTS, PLUS ADDITIONAL EXTRA OF NEW COLOR TELEVISION SET. (COMMENT: WHILE GIMMICKY, THIS IS LATEST EXAMPLE OF INCREASING ROYAL ATTENTION TO POLITICS BY ROYAL FAMILY. QUICK REVIEW OF PRESS FOR PAST MONTH INDICATES MORE PUBLICITY GIVEN TO VISITS AND SPEECHES BY SHAH'S BROTHERS AND SISTERS AS WELL AS IMMEDIATE FAMILY.)
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